(b) if so, what are the points of dispute and how these two Ministers are going to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir, There is no such debate/dispute between the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public distribution and Ministry of Finance on the ways and means of disposal of surplus stocks of wheat. This Ministry has fixed the issue price of FCI wheat under the open Market Sale Scheme in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

**Base Depots of FCI in Madhya Pradesh**

†3313. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depots of the Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh for supply of foodgrains under targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether these numbers of base depots are adequate to meet the requirement of the State;

(c) the names of those districts in the State where such base depots are not existing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Food Corporation of India have any plan to set up more base depots in the State; and

(f) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (f) In Madhya Pradesh, there are 61 centres functioning under Targeted Public Distribution System for supply of foodgrains. Of these 37 are base depots and 24 BPL centres. These are adequate to meet the requirement of the State. The name of districts in the State where such base depots do not exist, are Bhind, Shivpur, Badwani, Mandsaur, Shajapur, Neemuch, Sehore, Raisen, Rajgarh, Harda, Panna, Umaria, Korba, Koriya, Kawardha and Dantewada. The reasons for non-existence of base depots is non-availability of godowns, railway siding and also creation of new districts from these districts.

Apart from this, procurement and supplies of foodgrains in the State, is being done under the Scheme of 'Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains' by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation and procured foodgrains are distributed from their godowns. Presently, there is no plan to open more base depots in Madhya Pradesh.

**Mobile Vans for distribution of commodities**

†3314. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mobile vans operating in remote tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh for distribution, arrangement of foodgrains, Kerosene etc. alongwith the further requirement of such vans in this regard;

(b) the amount of financial assistance being provided by Government for this purpose and whether financial aid is provided for maintenance and operation of these vans;

(c) if not, whether any grant would be provided to compensate the loss to be suffered by the State; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of 'Purchase of Vans' for strengthening of Public Distribution System (PDS) Government of Madhya Pradesh has been provided financial assistance for purchase of 164 vans since 1985-86. These vans are for use of PDS operations specially in remote, hilly, rural and tribal areas.

(b) The assistance is in the form of 50% of subsidy and 50% loan is on the actual cost of the vehicle including the cost of fabrication as per the following norms:

(i) For mobile vans of capacity of 4 tonnes or above, the financial assistance for each vehicle is restricted to Rs. 4 lakhs or actual cost whichever is less.

(ii) For mobile trucks of capacity 8 tonnes or above financial assistance for each vehicle is restricted to Rs. 8 lakhs or the actual cost whichever is less.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines of the scheme maintenance and operational costs of the vehicles purchased under the scheme are to be borne by the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.